

REMARKS

In the office action mailed July 12, 2005, Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Mattaway et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,185,184 (“Mattaway ‘184”) in view of Hipp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,837) (“Hipp ‘837”). Enclosed
5 is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 (Tab A) along with a supporting exhibit (Tab B) that operate to swear behind the Hipp ‘837 reference. More specifically, the Declaration and supporting exhibit illustrate that the claimed inventions were conceived before the earliest purported priority date of the Hipp ‘837 reference (October 5, 1999). The Declaration and supporting exhibit also evidence that due diligence was exercised in reducing the claimed
10 inventions to practice from at least just prior to October 5, 1999 until the patent application was filed on February 24, 2000. Accordingly, all rejections of pending claims 1-8 over the Hipp ‘837 reference should be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above, the present application, including claims 1-8, is in condition for allowance and solicit action to that end.

If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview,
5 the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (312)
913-0001.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:



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